



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
**Library Assistants' Association.**

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<sup>†</sup> As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using Indicators. Over 350 Institutions are now using it.

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# The Library Assistant:

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## THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895.

SIXTH SESSION.

YEAR 1900-1901.

*Members are requested to read carefully the announcements appearing on this and the following pages, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.*

### L.A.A. SEVENTH SESSION.

The Committee have now under consideration the arrangements for the coming Session and the Hon. Secretary invites suggestions from members not only concerning papers, meetings, etc., but also with a view to making the Study Circle of greater service to library assistants generally.

### SUMMER PROGRAMME, 1901.

If sufficient guarantees of attendance are received, it is proposed to organise a launch trip on the Thames from Richmond to Shepperton and back for Wednesday, August 28th.

The start from Richmond would be made about 2 p.m., and tea would be partaken at Shepperton after disembarking. A concert could be arranged on board for the return journey, for which offers of musical help will be very gladly received.

The total expense of the trip, including rail from London, and tea, will not exceed 4 6, providing that 30 or more take part.

Ladies are especially invited to this outing, which should prove the most successful yet organized.

Will all those intending to be present kindly inform Mr. W. B. Young, 63 Leslie Road, Leytonstone, E.? Full details will be sent to those so signifying their intention as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.

A further announcement will be made in the September journal of a visit to Twickenham on the lines of that of August, 1899, providing the necessary permission can be obtained from Mr. Henry Labouchere, M.P., and others concerned.

### THE VISIT TO ROCHESTER.

The first L.A.A. outing of the season took place on Wednesday, July 10th, when the historic city of Rochester (the Durobrive of the Romans) was visited.

It is much to be regretted that more assistants did not

take advantage of this exceptional opportunity for visiting the ancient minster town and its environs.

At Chatham station the party were met by Mr. L. E. A. Protheroe, City Librarian of Rochester, on whose shoulders much of the task of arranging for their reception had fallen, and under his guidance proceeded towards the quaint old city. Many places of interest were passed by the way, the monument to Lieutenant Waghorn, projector of the overland route to India, forming a conspicuous figure standing on rising ground near the station. Fort Pitt, at one time part of the defences of the great arsenal of Chatham, but now used as a military hospital, was also passed.

Walking by way of the New Road and Star Hill, Rochester High Street, which is part of the old Roman road known as Watling Street, was reached. Here was seen Eastgate House, an old mansion of the Tudor period, supposed to be connected by an underground passage with Restoration House. A by-way led the visitors to the latter building, so named from the fact that Charles II. spent the night before the Restoration within its walls.

Arrived at the Castle, Mr. George Payne F.S.A., Local Hon. Sec. of the Kent Archaeological Society, met the sightseers, to whom he had very kindly consented to act as guide. The keep, built by William of Corbeil in the reign of Henry I., is a huge quadrangle about 70 feet square, and a little over one hundred feet in height. Here a brief historical survey of the Roman and Norman occupations of the city and of the founding of the Castle was listened to. Standing on what until recently was thought to be the floor of the keep—the original one having been discovered 14 feet lower still—the whole of its interior could be seen open to the sky, the large holes in its massive masonry which once held the joists supporting the floors still remaining as an evidence of the great strength of the original structure. Down the centre wall runs a well, connected by openings with each floor, by which water was easily conveyed to the various apartments.

The old postern gate was next reached, and as they stood looking out on to the drawbridge, or rather its modern representative, Mr. Payne vividly brought before the minds of his hearers a word picture of the many scenes which had there been enacted in the strenuous days of old, when visitors sought admittance within the keep. The most striking feature of the old ruin, and that which attracted the most attention was the banquetting hall in which the governor's feasts were held. Here were seen some fine examples of Norman arches, fireplaces, and doorways, the

beautiful though rude mouldings testifying to the fact that our Norman ancestors were no mean handlers of the sculptor's tools.

Surrounding the banqueting hall is a passage from which the defence of the upper portion of the keep was carried on. It is built in such a manner that the military operations in no way interfered with those occupying the state apartments. As the top of the huge structure was reached the evidences of the restoration which it underwent in the reign of Henry III. were plainly in evidence. In one of the early sieges a corner of the keep was undermined, and completely blown down, and it was this that rendered necessary the restoration named. Altogether it does not seem to have equalled the work of the original building, for a fissure appeared in after years down the whole of one of the sides. This, however, has again been made good under the direction of Mr. Payne, and much other work has been done to strengthen and preserve the keep for future generations. Quite recently a beautiful arch has been brought to light in the old Chapel. It was apparently at one time the chancel arch, and had been completely covered with masonry since the time of Henry III. Of the four towers surmounting the keep one is round, the remaining three being square. The round tower was built during Henry III.'s restoration, all towers being so built in his reign from the fact that a better outlook could be obtained from them than from those built squarely.

In the Castle gardens much interest was evinced in the comparison of the mortars used in the construction of the city walls at different periods. That used by the Romans is so hard that a sledge-hammer would not move it, while that used in the two succeeding periods can be scraped away with a finger.

Leaving the Castle gardens, a short walk led to the western doorway of the Cathedral, one of the finest examples of Norman work to be seen in England. Above this door has been built a huge perpendicular window, which has seriously injured the appearance of the west front.

Some feet below the level of the roadway which passes this door, the first cathedral stood. Justus, in 604, was its first Bishop, and its eastern limit is shown by a semi-circular line on the floor of the nave of the present Cathedral near the western doorway.

Fortunately all the seats had been removed from the nave at the time of the visit, so that an uninterrupted view of this portion of the structure was obtained as it was entered from the west. It was built by Gundulph early in the 12th century, but its present form is not as it was originally built by that prelate. The Norman arches and triforium still remain, but a clerestory

has been added as well as the perpendicular window before mentioned. On one of the columns was seen the dim outline of what had once been a painting representing a Saint with the Infant Christ in his arms.

Entering the choir from the nave is like entering another building entirely. The history of the erection of this part of the Cathedral is rather interesting. A Scotch baker, William of Perth, was passing through Rochester on his way to the shrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury. He was set upon by thieves, who, after robbing him of all he had, left him dead, the monks of Rochester paying the last honours to his corpse. Later, the Pope canonised him, and a shrine was erected to his memory in the transept of the Cathedral. Pilgrims on their way to Canterbury halted at Rochester to pay their devotions at this shrine, and with the money which they left behind them the choir was built by William of Hoo, a sacrist of the Cathedral, in the 13th century.

Portions of the original woodwork have been incorporated with the choir stalls at present in use. Traces of a mural painting, representing the Wheel of Fortune were seen on one of the walls of the choir.

It may not be out of place here to mention that at one time two congregations worshipped under the roof of the Cathedral. In the choir the monks of St. Andrew went about their devotions, while in the nave the parishioners of St. Nicholas met to worship. A dispute as to who should hold the keys of the western doorway arose between the two congregations, and the difference was settled by the making of a separate door for the parishioners, but eventually a site adjoining the Cathedral was given them, and on it was built the parish church of St. Nicholas.

In the transept many interesting monuments were seen, that of Walter de Merton, Bishop from 1274 to 1277, and founder of Merton College, Oxford, being especially so. This monument lays in an arch which, until Cottenham's restoration in 1820, had been closed in with masonry. The Bishop is represented clothed in all his vestments, the monument thus being valuable as showing the ecclesiastical dress worn in his time.

Leading off the south-east transept is the chapter house, the doorway of which is a splendid specimen of late Decorated work. It now contains the Cathedral library.

The descent to the crypt was next made. At present that portion which was built by Gundulph is partly obscured by the organ bellows. Mr. Payne, however, is trying to get these removed. His idea is to have Gundulph's tower, standing between the choir and transept, restored, and to have the bellows placed



there in such a way as not to interfere with its preservation. At present it is used as the Cathedral dust-bin, so that Mr. Payne's plan would thus open up two very interesting portions of the Cathedral. Part of the crypt is being used as a sort of museum of architecture, and here are placed, according to their different periods, portions of the masonry of the Cathedral, which from one cause or another have been removed from time to time.

From the Cathedral the party proceeded to the Deanery gardens, in which are cultivated the roses for which Dean Hole is so well known. Unfortunately the visit was rather late in the season for them to be seen in their perfection. Besides its many varieties of flowers, the garden contains remains of the old city walls, and of a king's palace. Here again, the fact mentioned in connection with the mortars was plainly seen. It was from a window overlooking this same garden that Henry VIII. first saw Anne of Cleves, and his remark on that occasion was quite worthy of his reputation.

Leaving the gardens, the High Street was again crossed, and the old Corn Exchange reached. Here the Public Library is at present located, and after the inspection of that institution an adjournment was made to an ante-room for tea, Mr. Payne and Mr. Protheroe being of the party that sat at the table. After the repast a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Payne, and in replying he said that he would be amply repaid for any trouble that he had taken if his remarks had aroused in his hearers a greater interest in archæological study.

What time remained after tea was spent in visiting the old Elizabethan mansion, Eastgate House, which had been pointed out earlier in the day. Fortunately this quaint survival of Tudor architecture has not been allowed to fall into the hands of the housebreaker, but has been secured by the Corporation, and is in process of being converted into a museum. The restoration is being carried out under the guidance of Mr. Payne, but much yet remains to be done before it can be used for the purpose of a museum. The magnificently carved oak mantelpieces and panelling were objects of much admiration, as were also the mouldings of the ceilings.

Chatham station was reached by way of Victoria Gardens, and before "Good-bye" was said to Mr. Protheroe, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for his efforts towards making the visit a success.

Town was reached by 10.20 p.m.

#### NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

The third annual excursion of the members and friends of

the North-Western Branch took place on Saturday, June 29th, when Knutsford was the place visited.

Favoured with splendid weather and a capital programme, it is to be regretted that "the pilgrimage" failed to receive greater support from the members. In this connection it might be remarked that if every member would only lay to heart the fact that these outings entail a lot of trouble to the promoters, they would perhaps endeavour to attend them, or at any rate send a post-card whether they intended going or not. Such a course would make it much easier for everyone.

Harking back to our subject, the visitors were met at Knutsford Station by the Rev. Geo. Payne (author of "Mrs. Gaskell and Knutsford," etc.), who proved himself at once a guide, philosopher and friend, and certainly without him the visit to Knutsford would have been shorn of much of its interest.

The many interesting features of the quaint old Cheshire town having been visited and described, an adjournment for tea was made to the Royal George Hotel, when ample justice was done to the good cheer provided.

After tea the company, numbering under a score, proceeded per brake to Lower Peover, where the curious old church, dating from the 14th century, was the centre of interest.

This curious ecclesiastical rarity is an unique example of the quaint old black-and-white timbered architecture which recalls to mind the so-called "good old times" of Knight and Lady, Cavalier and Roundhead, and the thousand and one legends centred round the days when might was right in the land of merrie England.

Although this church dates from the 14th century, it has been completely restored at various times, and it is doubtful if any of the original structure remains; certainly no one casually glancing at its peaked gables would take it for other than an old manor house, and might be excused for passing it by when looking for the church.

Driving back via Plumbley through some of Cheshire's prettiest scenery brought the visitors into Knutsford by train-time, all thoroughly delighted with the afternoon's outing, and ere leaving they accorded their grateful thanks to Mr. Payne for his efforts on their behalf.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING.

On the invitation of Mr. C. R. Wright, Librarian, Accrington Public Library, the next visit will be to that institution on September 14th.

Mr. Wright has very kindly promised to provide tea for the

members, and is arranging a drive to Whalley Abbey, so that a very enjoyable outing can be looked for.

Accrington being an "Open Access" Library should possess a special interest for L.A.A. members.

Special notice is hereby given that unless a sufficient number promise to attend, this excursion will not take place.

*All members* are requested to send word per post-card *whether they can or cannot attend* by August 30th.

*The sole expense to members will be their railway fares to Accrington*, and if a large party is made up reduced fares are allowed by the railway company.

It is hoped that every member will endeavour to attend.

*See September "Assistant" for train and other arrangements.*

#### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

FRANK PACY, *Hon. Secretary.*

20 Hanover Square,

London, W.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held, by invitation of the local authorities of Plymouth and Devonport, in those towns on 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th August, for the transaction of the annual business of the Association, and for the consideration, by means of papers and discussions, of bibliographical questions and the various branches of library work and management.

Business sessions will be held each day, and visits made to the libraries and other kindred educational institutions in the district. In addition to which a good social, recreative and instructive programme is being arranged, including a reception by the Mayor of Plymouth, the Annual Association Dinner, short marine excursion to view Plymouth Sound, the Harbour, Fortifications, etc., country drives, or river excursions, and a visit to the Royal Dockyards, etc.

The Council hope that there will be a full and representative gathering of the members at this meeting.

Those visitors not in membership of the Association may take part in the meetings on payment of a subscription of one guinea, and will receive the report of the proceedings and any other *Annual Publications*.

#### A VISIT TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

Stratford-on-Avon, renowned as the birthplace of Shakespeare, is situated on the south-western border of the county of Warwickshire on a gentle ascent from the river Avon, 94 miles from London and 26½ from Birmingham.

It is a well built town and still possesses some picturesque old houses, the most important being one in Henley Street, to which the visitor naturally wends his way, it being the birthplace of the immortal Shakespeare. Although much altered externally, it still retains an antique appearance.

Like many ancient houses it was sub-divided, part being used as a dwelling house and the other for a wool-store.

At one time a board over the projecting window on the ground floor bore this inscription:—"The immortal Shakespeare was born in this house," but among other improvements this signboard has been removed.

In 1784 the house was used as a butcher's shop, the bay windows and porch having been removed. The adjoining wool-shop in 1603 appears to have been used as an inn, called the Maidenhead, but later known as the Swan and Maidenhead.

After passing through several hands the houses were again in 1847 put under the hammer, and in consequence of a powerful appeal through the press, they were purchased for the nation, by a committee for about £3,000; four trustees being elected to take charge of the property. They were then carefully restored and placed as near as possible in the condition in which they existed during Shakespeare's life.

The principal living room of the house is entered directly from the street; it has an ancient and somewhat dreary aspect, being stone paved, and provided with the ample fireplace of olden times. In the kitchen is a similar fireplace, the mantel of which is formed by a single oak beam. The wash-house and pantry are behind the kitchen.

Upstairs the room of greatest interest is the principal bed-chamber, for here, Shakespeare, and in all probability his brothers and sisters, first saw the light of day.

The windows of this room are of old glass, and on these, the walls, and the ceiling, are thousands of names of persons of different nationalities which were written or scratched thereon, amongst which it is possible to decipher those of Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Carlyle, Izaak Walton, and many of the most illustrious men and women of the age; and these signatures as Washington Irving observes in the "*Sketch Book*," "present a simple but striking instance of the spontaneous and universal homage of mankind to the great poet of nature." This practice has now been very properly forbidden.

Two of the old signboards which formerly hung outside the house, and a fine oil painting of the poet, presented by the late Wm. Oakes Hunt, Town Clerk of Stratford, are in a room at the back of this.

Descending to the ground floor you now enter the former wool-shop, which has been converted into a museum, containing a large collection of objects of interest connected with Shakespeare, but which it is impossible to enumerate fully here. In a case are a ring with the letters W. and S. intertwined with a knot on the bezel, and a sword, said to have belonged to the poet. In the lower end of the room is the desk, at which it is declared Shakespeare, as a boy, used to sit at the Grammar School, from whence it was removed some years ago.

A number of deeds belonging to the poet and his family are also preserved here. A letter of great importance, as it appears to be the only one addressed to the poet known to be in existence, is kept between two sheets of glass. It is a begging letter from one, Richard Quiney, asking for a loan of £30. In the upper part of the room is an old carved chair, which came from the Falcon, at Bidford, where it is said to have been the favourite seat of the poet when he visited that Inn. There are also numerous portraits in this room, amongst others being one of the poet, painted in oils, on a panel, dated 1603 and at one time at Ely Palace, and another attributed to Zuccherò.

The garden in which Shakespeare, as a child, must have frequently played is at the back of the house. It is carefully kept and ingeniously planted with the particular flowers and fruit trees alluded to in the works of Shakespeare and which have gained a new interest and beauty from their association with passages in his plays which rise to the minds of all who gaze upon them.

The base of the old Market Cross, dating from the fourteenth century, has been removed from its original position in the town and placed in the centre of this garden.

In 1891, the birthplace property, which is open to the public, became vested in the Town Council.

After leaving the birthplace it is as well to make your way to the High Street, at the corner of which and Bridge Street, is the house, though much altered, which was for years the residence of Judith Quiney (the subject of Black's novel, "Judith Shakespeare,"), the youngest daughter of the poet.

In continuation of the High Street is Chapel Street, on the left-hand side of which, at the corner of Sheep Street, is the Town Hall, erected in 1768, in the Tuscan order of architecture, and containing amongst others, a portrait of Garrick, by Gainsborough.

*(To be continued).*

## PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITIONS, 1901.

The pseudonyms of the competitors for the recent prizes are set out below in order of merit as decided by the adjudicators:—

*Senior Division.*

1. Spiro, *Prize-man*.
2. Quo, *H. commended*.
3. Touchstone.
4. Bridget.
5. A.L.A., Durham.
6. Scotia.
7. Inter folio fructus.
8. Aspirant.
9. Beric.
10. Lorne.
11. Pro bono publico.
12. Ratepayer.
13. Actæon.
14. Prairie Flower.
15. Voluntas.
16. Job.
17. Jonathan Oldbuck.
18. S.X.

*Junior Division.*

1. Pendennis, *Prize-man*.
2. Reddead, *H. commended*.
3. King Arthur.
4. Arab.
5. Wigan.
6. Wyvern.
7. Progressive.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

BIRKENHEAD.—Thefts. A young woman was fined 20s. and costs in three cases of stealing books from lending libraries. She admitted the thefts, and to having removed the labels and selling the books to a second-hand dealer.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A temporary building is to be provided for use as a public library pending the erection of the municipal buildings.

BURY.—Princess Louise has been invited to open the Bury Art Gallery and Public Library towards the end of the summer.

CAMBERWELL.—Mr. Passmore Edwards is presenting another branch library, the foundation stone of which was laid by that gentleman on July 25th. The plan and elevation appeared in the "Building News" of July 19th.

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie recently made grants to the following places for free libraries:—Hamilton, £15,000; Coatbridge, £15,000; Dalkeith, £4,000; Kelso, £3,500; and Annan, £3,000.

DARWEN.—The Library Committee at Darwen has decided not to purchase novels until they have stood the test of twelve months' publication.

HAMILTON.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised to present a new Library to Hamilton, conditional on the burgh adopting the Act, and providing a site.

ILKESTON.—The Ilkeston Corporation has unanimously adopted the Public Libraries Act. It is an open secret that Mr. Carnegie is to be approached.

KINGSTON.—The Town Council are about to obtain plans and estimates for the erection of a new library. A rough estimate puts the cost of the building at £6,000.

LEEDS.—The Corporation intend to invite competitive plans for the erection of a Library and Baths. The approximate cost is £15,000.

LEWISHAM.—The new library is now open, and the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted for the parish of Lee, a part of the new Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham, to which the Libraries Acts did not apply.

LINCOLN.—In its last annual report the Committee gives a list of the books "which have never left the shelves." We remember frequently seeing lists of books which are most read, but we do not remember having come across such a list as this before. Needless to say, no works of fiction figure in it, nor of travel and topography, but we notice with surprise works by E. A. Freeman, Schiller and Jevons. But still it is satisfactory to know that only 35 books out of 10,538 have failed to find readers. The report shows evidence of the growing popularity of the Lincoln Library.

NEWTON ABBOTT.—Mr. Trevail, of Truro, is preparing a rough sketch of plans and elevations for a Public Library and Technical Schools.

STEPNEY.—It is interesting to note that the seal of the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney was designed by Mr. G. H. McCall, Librarian of Limehouse. It is a very handsome piece of work, and does him great credit.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—To perpetuate the memory of ex-Ald. G. Pyman, J.P., who has done so much for this Library. £1,286 has been raised, and the subscribers have decided to invest it at  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., the interest to be devoted to the purchase of books for the Library. A proviso is added that "at least three-fourths of such income be used for the purchase of technical and scientific works." The last report just to hand shows something new in the way of classification, the sexes of the borrowers being given as "males," "females," and "students"!

WOOLWICH.—The Committee has just purchased 10,000 volumes of its own selection from the private collection of Mr. W. G. Goulden, of Canterbury, for £1,000. The collection, which numbered upwards of 40,000 volumes, was very strong in bibliography, local topography, and archæology, and the market value of many of the books obtained is well over £5, whilst there are

hardly any whose value is under 2s. In addition to the advantageous terms, which Mr. Goulden made out of a desire to keep the chief part of the collection together, and in the county of Kent, he has also generously presented a large number of local prints and pamphlets, which, with the works included in the purchase, will make up a Kentish collection second to none. It is hoped that the Library will be opened in October next, with a stock of not less than 15,000 volumes.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

BACON, Mr. S., to be Junior Assistant, St. George, Stepney.

BELFIELD, Mr. Owen, to be Junior Assistant, Chester.

BULLEN, Mr. R. F., Sub-Librarian, Poplar, to be Librarian-in-Charge, Bow.

HARWOOD, Mr. Walter D., Senior Assistant, Oxford, to be Assistant Librarian, Battersea.

LAW, Mr. William, Senior Assistant, Perth, to be Assistant, Battersea.

LEWIN, Mr. P. E., of the Bedford Literary and Scientific Institution, to be Junior Assistant Librarian, Woolwich.

NORRIE, Mr. Joseph, Assistant, Aberdeen, to be Sub-Librarian, Walthamstow.

PACKINGTON, Mr. L., Junior Assistant, W. Norwood, to be Assistant, Tate Library, Brixton.

ROBERTS, Mr. F. Meaden, Librarian, St. George, Stepney, to be Librarian of Mile End, Stepney.

ROEBUCK, Mr. G. E., Sub-Librarian, St. George, Stepney, to be Librarian-in-charge, St. George, Stepney.

SCHOFIELD, Mr. Frank, Senior Assistant, Central Library, Wandsworth, to be Assistant Librarian, Battersea.

SHAWCROSS, Mr. Wm. Hy., Senior Assistant, Southport, to be Assistant Librarian, Bury.

#### NEW MEMBER.

SIMNET, Mr. W. E., Library of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Westminster. (*Senior*).

#### NOTICES.

Commencing with the September number, this Journal will be edited by Mr. H. T. Soper, Public Library, Stoke Newington, N., to whom particulars for the September number should be sent in by August 20th.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. E. Roebuck, 236, Cable Street, E.







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